

Learning English with CBC Calgary

Weekly newscast

October 24, 2014

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Objectives of the weekly newscast lesson

- to develop listening skills at the CLB 4 level
- to increase vocabulary among learners
- to increase knowledge of news stories
- to provide a self-study tool, as well as, an ESL classroom resource



www.alberta.ca

<http://www.cbc.ca/calgary/learning-english/>

News story #1 Tightening Security

Did you hear about the violent and deadly attack at Parliament in Ottawa on Wednesday? This attack has opened up a discussion across Canada on the safety measures that should be taken around the country. This first story is about how Alberta's government is adding security measures to the government buildings after Wednesday's shoot-out.

Vocabulary

Before you listen to the first news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily. Fill in the blanks below with the correct vocabulary words.

Answers are in the appendix.

Word	Definition
threat (n)	the possibility that something bad or dangerous will likely happen
security (n)	things that are done to keep things and people safe
precaution (n)	something you do to stop something dangerous from happening
handle (v)	to deal with a situation
tighten (v)	to control something more closely or strictly
legislature (n)	the building where the government meets to make and change laws
remain (v)	to continue or stay the same
check-in (v)	the process of reporting your arrival

Extra definitions to help you understand the reading:

justice minister – the person in government who is responsible for the department of justice

1. Can you _____ the problem with the customer for me?
2. When you get to the hotel, you will have to _____.
3. Is there a terrorist _____ to cities around Canada now that there's been an attack?
4. He met her at the _____ building; that's where she worked.
5. Most people went home, only a few _____.
6. What kind of _____ measures does your store have in place?
7. We will have to _____ up the rules around here since things have gotten out of control.
8. Let's lock the door with both locks, as an extra _____.

Now listen to the first news story from the audio file.

Listening Activity: Short Answer

Listen to the first story and answer the following questions. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. Is Jim Prentice getting more security because he thinks that Alberta is being directly threatened?
2. Where is security being tightened?
3. Who will handle the security issue now?
4. Will people still be able to go into the government buildings in Alberta?
5. What is a new safety measure that will be added at the government buildings?

Discussion Questions:

What kinds of security measures do you think government buildings have in place? Should anyone be allowed to walk into the parliament building, where government officials work?

News story #2 Murder Suspect Brought to Trial

Do you think people with mental illnesses, who commit crimes, should be held criminally responsible? This second story is about a mentally ill man who killed two people last year.

Before you listen to the second news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

Vocabulary Match the words with their correct synonyms. *Answers will be in the appendix.*

Answer	Words in the story	Related words
	sportscaster (n)	a) pierce wound with a knife
	prosecutor (n)	b) jailed seized
	commit (v)	c) announcer correspondent
	criminally (adv)	d) person laying blame lawyer supporting the accused
	arrested (v)	e) act do
	trial (n)	f) immorally acting against the law
	stabbed (v)	g) experimental to try

Extra definitions to help you understand the reading:

criminally responsible - someone who has committed a crime is held responsible

schizophrenic – a mental disorder, which leaves the person with abnormal social behavior and mental processes

Now listen to the second news story from the audio file.

Listening and Taking Notes: Now listen to the first news story from the audio file and take notes on the following:

Who is in the story? (6)	
What happened? Tell in chronological order (3 events)	
When did the events take place? (2)	
Where did the police arrest Puffer?	
How was the killer related to the victims?	

Retell the story: Use your notes to retell the story you just heard in your own words to a partner.

What's your opinion on how mentally ill criminals should be handled in the courts?

News story #3 Flu Season

Do you get the flu shot each year? Do you know how flu shots work? This next story is about the flu shot being given to Calgarians.

Before you listen to the third news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

Match words with definitions. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Answer	Words or phrases	Definition
	in droves (n)	a) to fold upon itself
	wind (v)	b) to move somewhere in a quick and awkward way
	roll-up (v)	c) crowds of people
	sleeve (n)	d) a row of people who are standing and waiting for something
	scramble (v)	e) a weak form of a virus that protects people from getting sick
	vaccine (n)	f) to turn and twist
	line-up (n)	g) the piece of clothing that covers your arms
	flu shot (n)	h) a medical offices where people go to get a flu shot
	flu clinic (n)	i) a needle with the flu vaccine in it that people get to prevent getting the flu

Extra definitions to help you understand the reading:

infectious disease expert – a person who specializes in infectious and contagious viruses, which are illnesses that other people can easily get

Now listen to the third news story from the audio file.

Listening Activity: True/False

Decide whether the statements below are **true (T)** or **false (F)**. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. ____ Only a few Calgarians have come to get their flu shot this week.
2. ____ The line-up of people was winding around the Brentwood flu clinic.
3. ____ Security guards were there to ensure the people stood in line nicely.
4. ____ There were 13 Albertans killed by the flu last year.
5. ____ One thousand, two hundred people went to the hospital with the flu last year.
6. ____ Dr. Glen Armstrong hopes for a last minute scramble to get the shot this year.
7. ____ Alberta health officials have enough vaccine for almost half of the Albertans.
8. ____ Line-ups are getting longer, but moving quickly.

Discussion

Are flu shots important? Do you think they really work? Do you think flu shots should be mandatory (must happen) for certain groups of people who are likely to get and spread the virus easily, like children and people working in the medical field, for example?

Language Focus: **Phrasal Verbs and Using Hyphens (-)**

Hyphens are often used to link words and word parts together. A hyphen is the dash (" - ") that goes between words.

Here are some places you will see hyphens:

1. **Compound words** – e.g. mother-in-law; kind-hearted
2. **Compound adjectives** – e.g. sugar-free; quick-thinking; well-known
3. **Compound verbs** – e.g. ice-skate; high-jump
4. **Phrasal verbs acting as nouns**
 - a) **Verbs don't get hyphenated** – e.g. break in – The thief will break into the house.
 - b) **Nouns do get hyphenated** – e.g. break-in – There was a break-in at the house.

* You should not put a hyphen within a phrasal verb if it acts as a verb.

More about phrasal verbs

Phrasal verbs are made up of a main verb and a preposition and they often act as the verb in the clause. The ones that act as verbs do not get hyphenated.

For example:

She **blows up** when she doesn't get her way.

He will **break up** with her.

I am going to **drop out** of school.

I will **make up** a plan to fix the problem.

If a phrasal verb is made into a noun though, then you should use a hyphen.

For example:

She had a **blow-up** when she didn't get her way.

He experienced a **break-up** last summer.

Can I wear **make-up** to school?

You Try!

Look at the sentences taken from the audio. First, find the phrasal verb. Next, identify if it is acting as a noun or a verb. Last, if it is acting as a noun, then add a hyphen.

1. ... but there are some extra check ins in place following the events in Ottawa,...
2. Alberta flu clinics are now open, and Calgarians showed up in droves this week.
3. Hundreds were waiting for their turn to roll up their sleeves.
4. Line ups are said to be getting shorter and moving quickly.

Transcripts of Weekly news stories

	OCTOBER 24 TH WEEKLY NEWS STORIES	TIME
Introduction	Hi, this is Rosa Marchitelli . You're listening to Learning English with CBC for the week of October 24 th .	0:00
Story 1	Premier Jim Prentice says there's no threat here in Alberta, but security is being tightened at some government buildings. Extra precautions are being put in place at the Legislature and Government House in Edmonton as well as the McDougall Centre in Calgary. Prentice says justice minister Jonathan Denis will handle the issue from here. Premier Prentice says all government buildings remain open, but there are some extra check-ins in place following the events in Ottawa, where one soldier was killed at the National War Memorial.	0:09
Story 2	A Calgary court is hearing details about the murder of Calgary sportscaster Bill Powers and his wife, Donna Lee, last July. The Crown prosecutor, Jonathan Hak, told the judge the issue isn't whether Derek Puffer committed the killings; it's whether he should be found criminally responsible. Bill and Donna Powers were stabbed a total of 25 times. Puffer was arrested at a bus stop near the family's home in Braeside. He was naked with blood on his hands when he calmly told police he had just killed his mother and stepfather. He told police he was a schizophrenic and stopped taking his medicine years ago. Puffer didn't have a history of violence. The trial is expected to last a week.	0:48
Story 3	Alberta flu clinics are now open, and Calgarians showed up in droves this week. At the Brentwood flu clinic, security guards work to keep the winding line in order outside. Hundreds were waiting for their turn to roll up their sleeves. Last year the flu killed 30 Albertans and sent more than 12-hundred to hospital. Dr. Glen Armstrong is an infectious disease expert at the University of Calgary. He hopes people will avoid a last minute scramble this year. Health officials say this year they have enough vaccine for 45 percent of Albertans. Line-ups are said to be getting shorter and moving quickly. For a list of Calgary's four vaccination clinics and their hours, visit our website at cbc.ca/calgary	1:41

Answer keys

News story 1

Vocabulary:

1. Can you **handle** the problem with the customer for me?
2. When you get to the hotel, you will have to **check-in**.
3. Is there a terrorist **threat** to cities around Canada now that there's been an attack?
4. He met her at the **legislature** building; that's where she worked.
5. Most people went home, only a few **remain**.
6. What kind of **security** measures does your store have in place?
7. We will have to **tighten** up the rules around here since things have gotten out of control.
8. Let's lock the door with both locks, as an extra **precaution**.

Listening Activity: Short Answer

1. Is Jim Prentice getting more security because he thinks that Alberta is being directly threatened? **No, not directly, but he feels that security should be tightened anyways, just as a precaution.**
2. Where is security being tightened? **At some government buildings – the Legislature and government house in Edmonton and McDougall Center in Calgary.**
3. Who will handle the security issue now? **The justice minister, Jonathan Denis**
4. Will people still be able to go into the government buildings in Alberta? **Yes, but there will be extra check-ins.**
5. What is a new safety measure that will be added at the government buildings? **Extra check-ins**

News story 2

Vocabulary:

Answer	Words in the story	Related words
c	sportscaster	a) pierce wound with a knife
d	prosecutor (n)	b) jailed seized
e	commit (v)	c) announcer correspondent
f	criminally	d) person laying blame lawyer supporting the accused
b	arrested	e) act do
g	trial	f) immorally acting against the law

a	stabbed	g) experimental to try something
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Listening:

Listening and Taking Notes: Now listen to the first news story from the audio file and takes notes on the following.

Who is in the story? (6)	- Bill Powers - Donna Lee - Jonathan Hak (the prosecutor) - The Judge - Derek Puff (the killer) - The police
What happened? Tell in chronological order	1. Bill and Donna Powers were stabbed 25 times and therefore murdered in Calgary last July. 2. Puffer was arrested at a bus stop – naked and covered in blood. He told the police he killed his parents, that he was schizophrenic and that he stopped taking his medicine years ago. 3. A Calgary court is now hearing details about the murder.
When did the events take place?	Last July – The murders and capture of Puffer Now - The court hearing/trial
Where did the police arrest Puffer?	At a bus stop near the Power's home
How was the killer related to the victims?	It was his mother and step father

News story 3

Vocabulary:

Answer	Words or phrases	Definition
c	in droves (n)	a) to fold upon itself
f	wind (v)	b) to move somewhere in a quick and awkward way
a	roll-up (v)	c) crowds of people
g	sleeves (n)	d) a row of people who are standing and waiting for something
b	scramble (v)	e) a weak form of a virus that protects people from getting sick
e	vaccine (n)	f) to turn and twist
d	line-ups (n)	g) the piece of clothing that covers your arms
i	flu shot (n)	h) a medical offices where people go to get a flu shot
h	flu clinic (n)	i) a needle with the flu vaccine in it that people get to prevent getting the flu

Listening:

1. F Only a few Calgarians have come to get their flu shot this week.
2. T The line-up of people was winding around the Brentwood flu clinic.
3. T Security guards were there to ensure the people stood in line nicely.
4. F There were 13 Albertans killed by the flu last year.
5. T One thousand, two hundred people went to the hospital with the flu last year.
6. F Dr. Glen Armstrong hopes for a last minute scramble to get the shot this year.
7. T Alberta health officials have enough vaccine for almost half of the Albertans.
8. F Line-ups are getting longer, but moving quickly.

Language focus:

1. ... but there are some extra **check-ins** in place following the events in Ottawa,...

- check-in is a noun here, so it gets a hyphen

2. Alberta flu clinics are now open, and Calgarians **showed up** in droves this week.

- showed up acting as a verb

3. Hundreds were waiting for their turn to **roll up** their sleeves.

- roll up is acting as a verb

4. **Line-ups** are said to be getting shorter and moving quickly.

- line-up is a noun, so it gets a hyphen